

McMaster University

James Benn

There are currently six PhD students in Buddhist Studies (three in Chinese Buddhism, two in Indian Buddhism, and one in Japanese Buddhism), and five MA students (three in Indian Buddhism and two in Chinese Buddhism). We welcome applications to study at the PhD or MA level, and interested students should consult the information on our website: <http://www.religiousstudies.mcmaster.ca/graduate-program/admissions>

Mark Rowe's recent book (Japanese Buddhism), *Bonds of the Dead: Temples, Burial, and the Transformation of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism* (University of Chicago Press), has been widely and positively reviewed. Shayne Clarke's (Indian Buddhism) new book, *Family Matters in Indian Buddhist Monasticisms*, is soon to appear from University of Hawai'i Press. James Benn (Chinese Buddhism) currently serves as Chair of the Department of Religious Studies. His new book, *Tea in China: A Religious and Cultural History*, is forthcoming from University of Hawai'i Press.

Dr. Dewei Zhang was at McMaster for two years (2011-2013) on a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship. His research is on the printing of the Chinese Buddhist Canon during the Ming Dynasty. Dr. Fumi Yao joined us in 2013, on a Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) postdoctoral fellowship. She is working on sutra texts embedded in sections of the monastic law code of the Mūlasarvāstivādins.

In 2012-13 we offered the following graduate seminars in Buddhist Studies in addition to first and second-year Sanskrit. Buddhist topics are also covered in our graduate seminars on East Asian Religions RS 712 / Topics in the Study of Chinese Buddhist Texts I: Translated Texts The Bodhisattva in East Asian Buddhism RS 716 / Topics in Japanese Buddhism.

McMaster University cooperates with the University of Toronto through the Yehan Numata Buddhist Studies Program. In 2012-13 McMaster hosted the following events in that series:

Shaman Hatley (Concordia University)

Reading Group: "Converting the Ḍākinī: Goddess Cults and Tantras of the Yoginīs between Buddhism and Śaivism"

Matthew Kapstein (University of Chicago and Université La Sorbonne) Reading Group: "'Spiritual Exercise' and Buddhist Epistemologists in India and Tibet"

Robert Company (Vanderbilt University)

Reading Group: "Religious Repertoires and Contestation: A Case Study Based on Buddhist Miracle Tales"

Geoffrey Samuel (Cardiff University)

Lecture: "The Multiple Meanings and Uses of Tibetan Sacred Dance: 'Cham' in Context"

Jens-Uwe Hartmann (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

Lecture: "A Hub and a Cradle: Gandhara and the Spread of Buddhism"

Simon Fraser University

Paul Crowe

While Simon Fraser University has no department for Asian Studies, nor a Religious Studies department, we do have a Religious Studies certificate in the Department of Humanities and Religion is frequently a subject of study in our Asia-Canada Program. Additionally, the David See-Chai Lam Centre for International Communication occasionally hosts speakers. It is in these institutional contexts that matters related to Buddhist scholarship and undergraduate teaching are addressed.

During the past year, two courses dealt with various dimensions of Buddhist thought and praxis. Humanities 331, taught by Paul Crowe, considered Buddhist ethics in relation to contemporary challenges, such as economic and social justice, ecological concerns, and reproductive rights. Asia-Canada 300, taught by Michael Newton, began with an examination of concepts such as orientalism, foundational myths, transnationalism and globalism as a way of framing discussion of Buddhism and martial arts in North American popular culture.

The David See-Chai Lam Centre for International Communication hosted a dialogue between Dharma Master Guojun and Paul Crowe titled "Roots of an Ecological Consciousness in Buddhist and Daoist Approaches to Cultivation." Dharma Master Guojun received monastic ordainment under Master Song Nian at Mahabodhi Monastery, Singapore. He received lineage transmission in the Chan School of Chinese Buddhism from Master Sheng Yen of Dharma Drum Mountain in Jinshan, Taiwan. He has been the President of Mahabodhi Monastery Board of Directors, Singapore since 2004 and Abbot of Mahabodhi Monastery, Singapore since 2008.